

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/910,508

Examiner

Cheukfan Lee

Applicant(s)

SAITO, NAHO

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an application for patent filed July 19, 2001.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 19 July 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


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Art Unit: 2622

1. All pending claims 1-14 are allowed. Claims 1 and 9 are independent.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claims 1 and 9 and their dependent claims 2-8 and 10-14 are allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art, cited below, does not teach that the control board is integral with the image reading means, and the control board is connected to the interface as claimed in claims 1 and 9.

Please note that many of the prior art references (or references) cited below disclose a control board connected to an image-reading unit or carriage by a connection cable, the reading unit scanning along the original glass. However, none of the references disclose that the control board is integral with the image reading unit as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Tsuyoshi Yamauchi (Japanese Patent Abstract, Patent No. JP02003233138A) discloses a flat bed scanner having a flexible cable connecting an image reading unit and a control board, the control board being mounted on the surface of the bottom of the scanner frame.

Yamauchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,717,702) discloses a flatbed scanner having a flat cable connecting the contact type image sensor and the control board which is positioned at or near the bottom part of the scanner frame, the scanner further having a motor mounted on the image sensor carriage.

Chiang (U.S. Patent No. 6,330,084) discloses a flatbed scanner with a self-driven scanning module.

Chang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,246,492) discloses an image reading head having a motor mounted to the contact image sensor reader.

Hung-Che et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,335,802) discloses an image reading head and a motor mounted with the reading head.

Sheng et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,552,272) discloses an anti-abrasive flat flexible cable for a flatbed scanner.

Huang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,575,600) discloses an optical reflection device in a document scanner.

Huang (U.S. Patent No. 6,626,360) discloses a carrier mechanism for supporting and moving a traveling module in a flat bed scanner.

Tregoning (U.S. Patent No. 6,667,469) discloses a direct gear driven carriage assembly for an flatbed scanner.

Aoshima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,631,014) discloses a flat bed scanner having a motor mounted to the scanning unit.

Huang (U.S. Patent No. 6,196,855) discloses a guiding mechanism for guiding a flat cable between two traveling modules within a flat bed scanner.

Mai (U.S. Patent No. 6,002,508) discloses an flatbed scanner connected to a computer through an interface.

Cheng (U.S. Patent No. 6,373,601) discloses an image scanner (Figs. 3 and 4).

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheukfan Lee whose telephone number is (703) 305-4867. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Cheukfan Lee
Dec. 7, 2004



Cheukfan Lee